

8.

9th January, 1959

B.C.S. 1958/11

NEW SOUTH WALESDIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

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New South Wales Income estimates by industry groups for the twelve years ended June 1958 have been distributed separately this month.

GENERAL = New South Wales.

Employment series for the last quarter of 1958 showed seasonal fluctuations. A fall in the number of persons on unemployment benefit between July and November was largely offset by a rise in December, and there is no indication that the general slackening in the employment position which became evident earlier in the year has been overcome. Coal production in 1958 was a record, and steel and electricity output also continued to expand. Factory production in general remained steady towards the end of the year but in many instances was well below the peak of earlier periods. New home building was at a relatively high level while other building activity fell off in recent months. Seasonal conditions throughout the year 1958 were generally favourable, and good crop and clip results are expected for the current season. The wool price continued weakening towards the end of 1958 when it was at the lowest level for about ten years.

PART I : EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES

EMPLOYMENT = New South Wales (see also graph p. 152)

(The civil employment aggregates exclude defence forces, rural workers and women in private domestic service. The series has been revised recently).

Commonwealth Employment Service and Factory Survey figures for New South Wales (see p. 146) indicate that while there was a seasonal employment rise in some industries towards the end of the year the overall employment position did not change much, and it appears that the growth in population and available work force during 1958 was not fully matched by increased employment opportunities.

The most recent figures available for aggregate civil employment in New South Wales showed a rise of 3,300 to 1,128,200 in October 1958, which was below the April peak of 1,130,800. That rise was at least partly a seasonal movement and corresponded to a similar increase in October, 1957. The increase was mainly in private employment the total of which remained 1,100 less than a year earlier. The principal rises during October, 1958 were in building and construction, where employment had lagged during the winter months, in retail and wholesale trade and in the hotel industry, all of which usually take on staff during the early summer months. There was also a relatively small increase in factory employment which however left the total below the April figure. Industries where employment in October 1958 was less than a year earlier include mining and quarrying (a fall of 3000), building and construction (4800), rail and air traffic (400), communications (100), livestock and primary produce dealing (800), and amusement, sports and recreation (1200). Appreciable increases over the year were shown in factories (3900), finance and property (2000), and public administration and professional services (4800).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales

Month	Males		Females		Persons		
					Government	Private	Total
1951 - November	778,100		298,600		248,300	828,400	1,076,700
1954 - January	760,100		281,100		246,100	795,100	1,041,200
1957 - August	806,600		309,800		261,300	855,100	1,116,400
- September	809,300		311,900		261,400	859,800	1,121,200
- October	864,400		314,200		261,400	863,200	1,124,600
1958 - April	814,300		316,500		265,200	865,600	1,130,800
- August	809,700		315,400		266,200	858,900	1,125,100
- September	809,000		315,900		266,000	858,900	1,124,900
- October	811,800		316,400		266,100	862,100	1,128,200

	Mining & Quarrying	Factories	Building and Constr.	Transport & Commun.	Finance and Property	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Prof. & Personal Services	TOTAL incl. Other
1951-1953 Peak	32,700	386,900	73,100	131,600	36,800	67,200	97,100	152,900	1076,700
Low	28,900	345,500	61,800	126,600	34,700	60,800	88,900	148,400	998,600
1956-Oct.	30,000	419,200	73,500	132,400	42,200	69,200	95,300	162,800	1114,300
1957-Oct.	28,000	426,300	75,000	131,200	44,300	70,400	98,300	166,400	1124,600
1958-Apr.	26,700	431,500	71,400	132,500	46,000	69,400	98,400	168,800	1130,800
Sept.	24,900	429,900	69,100	132,300	46,400	69,600	98,100	167,700	1124,900
Oct.	25,000	430,200	70,200	132,100	46,300	69,800	99,100	168,700	1128,200

Civil employment recovered during October 1958 in all the mainland States with a rise of 6100 to 2,888,900 for Australia, which was below the figures for March and April 1958 but 21,700 or .8% higher than a year earlier. The proportional distribution of the aggregate between the States in October 1958 remained about the same as in recent years: New South Wales 39%, Victoria 29%, Queensland 13%, South Australia 9%, Western Australia 6½%, Tasmania 3% and the Northern and Capital Territories 2%.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT - Australia - in Thousands
(Excluding rural workers, women in domestic service, defence forces)

	N.S.W.	Victoria	Queens- land	South Aust.	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia (incl. A.C.T. & N.T.)
July 1939	627.2	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1730.2
Oct. 1956	1114.3	821.7	380.6	248.0	183.9	87.6	2854.0
Oct. 1957	1124.6	827.7	375.8	248.1	184.0	87.7	2867.2
Mar./Apr. 1958	1130.8	842.6	373.7	250.6	185.5	91.0	2892.3
Sept. 1959	1124.9	835.2	329.2	250.0	185.2	88.1	2882.8
Oct. 1958	1128.2	836.9	329.4	250.6	185.6	88.1	2888.9

An employment survey of larger privately-owned factories in New South Wales (by the Department of Labour and National Service and the Commonwealth Statistician) shows a decline in the aggregate from 205,500 in March 1958 to 201,700 in November with practically no change in December. The only major group to show a sizeable expansion in recent months has been basic metals, and there have been some comparatively small increases in the building materials (bricks, cement goods, timber) and chemical industries. Employment in the metal manufacturing and clothing and textile and food groups has tended to decrease, and in December was a little less than a year earlier. Employment of women in particular has been affected and the total of 46,000 in December 1958 was 1600 less than a year earlier while male employment rose by 600 over the year.

EMPLOYMENT IN LARGER PRIVATE FACTORIES SURVEYED - N.S.W. Thousand Persons

Industrial Group	Dec. '56	Dec. '57	March '58	Oct. '58	Nov. '58	Dec. '58
Building Materials	14.5	14.3	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.8
Basic Metals	33.7	36.2	36.8	37.4	37.6	37.9
Transport Equipment	19.2	20.3	21.0	19.1	18.5	18.5
Other Metal Mfrs.	46.9	49.4	50.2	49.7	49.6	49.4
Chemical Products	9.3	9.7	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9
Clothing & Textiles	28.8	28.2	28.7	27.4	27.5	27.3
Food, Drink, Tobacco	19.6	20.3	20.2	19.5	20.1	20.0
Other Industries	22.9	24.1	24.1	24.1	23.9	23.9
Total : Men	149.2	155.1	157.4	155.5	155.5	155.7
Women	45.7	47.4	48.1	46.3	46.2	46.0
Persons	194.9	202.5	205.5	201.8	201.7	201.7
Total excl. Food	175.3	182.2	185.3	182.3	181.6	181.7

Commonwealth Employment Service reports for New South Wales for December 1958 show a rise in the number of unplaced applicants from 31,800 to 34,300, the increase being confined to male applicants. This is at least partly a seasonal movement, due to school leavers becoming available and firms deferring engagements until the new year. But it is a greater rise than in December 1957, and in the earlier years of labour shortage this movement was much smaller. The number of unplaced applicants at the end of 1958 was 22% higher than a year earlier and the highest since 1953. The unfavourable development in the labour market is also shown in the number of persons on unemployment benefit which had been reduced from 12,100 in July 1958 to 9,900 in November but increased again to 11,900 at the end of December.

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE N.S.W. & A.C.T.

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE N.S.W. & A.C.T.							
End of Month	Registered for Placement stating to be					Vacancies Unfilled	Unemployment Benefit, Recipients, N.S.W.
	Not at Work	Seeking Job Change	Total Unplaced Applicants				
	Persons	Men	Women	Persons	Persons	Persons	
1951-August	4,300	4,300	5,700	2,900	8,600	58,900	100
1952-Dec.	35,700	3,000	30,900	7,900	38,700	5,900	25,100
1956-Nov.	13,700	4,700	11,100	7,300	18,400	11,400	3,300
-Dec.	13,700	4,600	11,800	6,500	18,300	11,400	4,400
1957-Nov.	19,200	6,800	17,000	9,000	26,000	10,800	7,000
-Dec.x	22,300	5,800	19,200	8,900	28,100	9,800	9,000
1958-July	25,900	4,900	20,100	10,700	30,800	6,300	12,100
-Oct.	23,500	6,000	18,900	10,600	29,500	10,000	10,300
-Nov.	24,600	7,200	19,700	12,100	31,800	11,400	9,900
-Dec.	27,000	7,300	22,400	11,900	34,300	10,400	11,900

x, 24th December, except of last column which refers to 27th December.

WAGES AND EARNINGS = New South Wales

Basic wage rates for men in Sydney showed only minor fluctuations during 1957 and 1958. The peak figure of £13.14.0 for men working under State awards first attained in November 1956 was reached again in May 1958 but this was followed by a reduction of 1/- in November. The male rate under Commonwealth awards fixed at £13.3.0 in May 1957 was raised to £13.8.0 in May 1958. The nominal wage rate index which is based on award rates continued to rise but at a lesser rate than in recent years. And the rise in average earnings of 14/6 to £20.18.0 per week between September quarter 1957 and 1958 compares with rises of 16/- in each of the two preceding years. Total weekly earnings in New South Wales rose from £20m. in September quarter 1956 to £21m. in 1957 and £22m. in 1958 which is equivalent to about 40% of the corresponding Australian figures (£50m., £52m. and £55m.).

WEEKLY WAGES AND EARNINGS - New South Wales - Adult Male Rates

WEEKLY WAGES AND EARNINGS - New South Wales - Adult Male Rates							
Month of Change	BASIC WAGE AWARDS		Quarter	NOMINAL WAGE RATE INDEX N.S.W. 1937-39 = 100	Average Weekly $\frac{\circ}{\circ}$		
	Sydney				EARNINGS, TOTAL WAGES		
	State	Commonwealth				Male Unit	PAID
	£ p e r w e e k						
1950-Nov.	£7. 6. 0	£7. 6. 0	1950-Sept.	206	£10.14. 0	10.4	
1955-Nov.	12.13. 0	12. 3. 0	1955-Sept.	338	18.11. 6	19.3	
1956-Nov.	13.14. 0	12.13. 0	1956-Sept.	359	19. 7. 6	20.3	
1957-May	13. 8. 0	13. 3. 0	1957-March	365	19. 1. 6	20.1	
Nov.	13.10. 0	13. 3. 0	Sept.	372	20. 3. 6	21.2	
1958-May	13.14. 0	13. 8. 0	1958-March	371	19. 8. 6	20.6	
-Nov.	13.13. 0	13. 8. 0	Sept.	377	20.18. 0	22.1	

Ø Revised Series.

A comparison of proportional increases in the different series shows that the 1958 movement was the smallest since 1955, and also that the rise in average earnings in 1957-58, as in most earlier years kept well ahead of increases in the award rates. Main differences between the nominal wage rate and average earnings series are that the latter includes payments above award rates, overtime and bonus payments and salaries not subject to industrial awards.

Percent. Increase September Quarters	BASIC WAGE, Men, Sydney		NOMINAL WAGE RATES		AVERAGE EARNINGS
	State	Commonwealth	Men	Women	Male Units
1946 to 1954	14.3%	14.3%	140%	166%	162%
1954 to 1955	-	-	2%	2%	8%
1955 to 1956	7%	4%	6%	5½%	4½%
1956 to 1957	3%	4%	3½%	3½%	4%
1957 to 1958	1%	2%	1½%	1½%	3½%

NEW BUILDING = New South Wales (See also graph p.153)
(Approvals from building permits and Government contracts let)

New home building activity in New South Wales remained comparatively high in November 1958. The number of approvals, 3021, and their value, £9.4m., were exceeded only in two months of 1958 and they were considerably higher than for November of 1957 or 1956. The aggregate figures for the eleven months ended November 1958, 30,855 dwellings valued at £98m. were 12% higher than for this period of 1957 and about 33% higher than in 1956. The value of other types of approvals did not show a similar rise. Their value of £3.8m. in November 1958 was the lowest for any month of the year. In the eleven months the value of factory approvals in 1958 was a little more than in 1957 but less than in 1956, and there was only a small rise in commercial building approvals over the two years. However, 'other building', which includes schools, hospitals etc., rose appreciably in the 1958 period. The total value of building approvals was £165m. in the 1958 period, as against £139m. in 1957 and £150m. in 1956.

NEW BUILDING - A P P R O V A L S - New South Wales

Month	Houses and Flats				Hotels, Shops, Factories	Other	Total
	Private	Govt.	Total	Total	Offices, Banks	Ø	Buildings
	Number				Value in £m.		
Jan.-Nov. 1956	20,361	2,992	23,353	73.3	18.3	21.5	140.2
1957	23,358	4,176	27,534	87.3	16.9	14.6	139.1
1958	27,004	3,851	30,855	97.7	18.7	15.0	164.5
October 1957	2,136	308	2,444	7.8	1.2	1.5	12.6
November 1957	2,150	66	2,236	7.2	.9	.9	10.7
September 1958	2,939	370	3,309	10.6	2.0	1.8	18.4
October 1958	2,479	450	2,929	8.9	1.9	.6	14.0
November 1958	2,555	466	3,021	9.4	1.0	1.2	13.2

1958 figures preliminary only. Ø Includes public buildings. / Estimated cost when completed (excl. land) of new buildings, alterations and additions.

PRODUCTION = New South Wales (See also graph 153)

New South Wales coal production was maintained throughout 1958 at the high average of 320,000 tons per working week and reached the record total of 15.7m. tons for the year. This is about 350,000 tons or 2% above the previous record reached in 1957. Before that coal output has reached 15m. tons only in 1954 and 1952. Production in the immediate pre-war period had averaged about 10m. tons, rising to an average of 11m. tons during the war years and 13m. tons in the first ten years after the war. The principal increase in 1958 was on the Northern field which produced a record 8.8m. tons (56% of the total) from underground mines. The expansion on the Southern field continued but the increase was not as great as in recent years; they produced 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the State total. For the third year in succession there was a small decrease in output from Western mines. Open-cut production of 720,000 tons in 1958 was a little less than in 1957 and represented only 5% of the State total. Consumption figures (available up to the middle of November) suggest that increased use of coal for electricity generation and steel making and larger oversea exports more than offset a decline in use of coal by the railways and gas works.

C O A L - OUTPUT IN NEW SOUTH WALES - Million tons

Yearly Average and Year	U n d e r g r o u n d			A l l D i s t r i c t s		
	Northern	Southern	Western	Underground	Open-Cut	Total
Av. 1936-38	6.39	1.78	1.44	9.61	-	9.61
1945	6.44	1.78	1.44	9.66	0.52	10.18
1954	8.63	3.36	1.71	13.70	1.38	15.08
1955	8.48	3.60	1.76	13.84	.90	14.74
1956	8.36	3.98	1.66	14.00	.81	14.81
1957	8.48	4.55	1.63	14.66	.73	15.39
1958 (Prel.)	8.81	4.66	1.55	15.02	.72	15.74

Pre-war average from Mines Department; later figures from Joint Coal Board.

Statistics for 87 items produced in New South Wales factories indicate that production in November was mostly maintained at the level of recent months. For about one half of the items output in July-November 1958 was higher than in that period of 1957; this includes building materials and fittings and engines. For about one third of the number of items production fell, in particular for some foodstuffs, clothing and textile items and certain electrical appliances; for remaining items production remained unchanged.

Pig iron production in recent months was at last year's level but ingot steel output continued to rise and in July-November 1958 was 4% greater than in that period of 1957. Electricity generation has also expanded and was 10% higher in the 1958 period. Gas production in July-November 1958 was about the same as in 1957 and 1956.

Production - New South Wales		Year ended June			July - November		
		1939	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
Pig Iron	Thousand tons	1105	1858	2029	753	842	845
Ingot Steel	" "	1168	2766	3041	1105	1274	1327
Gas	Mill. therm	59.2	116.7	114.8	52.2	52.2	52.1
Electricity	Mill. kWh.	194.8	7005	7565	2973	3210	3516

PART II : BANKING

CENTRAL BANK AND NOTE ISSUE - AUSTRALIA

Gold and Balances Abroad held by the Central Bank which had been steady around £470m. in the second half of 1957 declined from £433m. at the end of June 1958 (when Australian international reserves were £525m.) to £387m. at the end of October and were £405m. in the middle of December. That was £70m. less than a year earlier though still well above the 1956 and 1955 levels. Special Accounts of the trading banks were reduced from £340m. throughout the second half of 1957 to £265m. in the first half of 1958 and have remained at that figure. Following greater reliance on the trading banks' maintenance of set liquidity rates in recent years Special Accounts requirements are no longer closely related to the seasonal flow of bank deposits, and they have been kept at a lower proportion of the deposit aggregate. The decline in Special Accounts and Gold and Balances Held Abroad during 1958 was of about equal magnitude, and there was little change in the major assets and liabilities of the Central Bank.

COMMONWEALTH BANK - CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS, including Note Issue (£millions)

	Notes on Issue held by -			Trading Bank		Other Lia- bilities (a)	Gold & Bal'cs abroad	Govt. & Other Se- curities	Other Assets (b)
	Public	Banks	Total	Special	Other				
				A/c.	Dep's.				
16 Dec. 1953	302	46	348	284	46	276	520	425	12
21 Dec. 1955	361	52	413	265	38	204	297	570	54
19 Dec. 1956	362	59	421	270	24	197	325	557	35
18 Dec. 1957	362	63	425	340	24	212	475	519	17
17 Dec. 1958	361	63	424	265	19	226	405	528	17

(a). Excluding capital and reserve funds. (b). Excluding coins and bills held.

The long-term rise in the Australian note issue has slowed down in recent years; after increases of up to £50m. a year in early postwar years it rose in years ended November by £20m. in 1954-55, £11m. in 1955-56, £7m. in 1956-57 and £5m. in 1957-58. However, the seasonal increase in notes at Christmas has risen from £40m. in 1954, £48m. in 1956 and £50m. in 1957 to £55m. in 1958. This can be taken as a general indication of buoyance in Christmas spending but is not a very precise measure. As the figures in the above table indicate the public note issue in the week before Christmas was about the same during the past four years while the banks increased their holdings, and it is not clear how much of the additional issue actually went into circulation.

A U S T R A L I A N N O T E I S S U E

	<u>End of November</u> £million	<u>December Peak</u> £million	<u>Seasonal Rise</u> £million	<u>End of December</u> £million
1939	51.5	57.3	5.8	56.8
1952	316.2	351.9	35.7	342.4
1953	335.6	369.6	34.0	359.4
1954	353.8	393.8	40.0	383.8
1955	373.5	416.0	42.5	404.0
1956	384.5	432.5	48.0	423.5
1957	391.1	441.1	50.0	421.1
1958	396.0	451.1	55.0	436.0

PART III: RURAL INDUSTRIES

THE SEASON (See also graph p. 152)

Good rainfalls were recorded over most parts of the State during December 1958 and they were of particular benefit in coastal areas which had had little rain during the early summer.

Seasonal conditions throughout 1958 were generally favourable for the rural industries. After the 1957 drought with an overall rainfall average of only about two thirds of normal, good falls in the first half of 1958 brought relief. Rainfall in some winter months was relatively light in inland districts but pastures and stock were in good condition and the weather remained favourable for the sowing of crops. Sufficient rain in most districts during the early summer ensured a good season for the rural industries in most parts of the State. The rainfall for the year 1958 was a little above the long-term average in most divisions and nowhere much below it, in contrast to the more extreme conditions of the three preceding years. The favourable weather conditions of 1958 also helped to minimise flood and bushfire losses during the year.

RAINFALL INDEX - New South Wales, "Normal Rainfall" = 100 for each period
(Districts - N: Northern, C: Central, S: Southern, W: Western)

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N	C	S	W	Total	N	C	S	Total	N	C	S	Total
1958													
January	124	182	92	116	130	120	172	83	111	67	116	122	87
February	110	115	111	70	107	114	124	115	117	82	117	240	111
March	112	133	138	85	124	87	132	161	144	80	95	119	89
April	79	77	73	97	79	62	77	72	72	219	112	65	172
May	113	121	112	127	116	148	109	116	118	17	36	15	21
June	112	72	51	77	77	93	63	38	51	237	175	148	209
July	30	72	132	81	81	34	73	133	106	7	20	44	15
August	110	120	155	136	130	109	135	98	109	335	105	96	246
September	175	172	109	82	143	186	165	105	131	73	115	78	84
October	148	178	158	199	166	168	168	168	168	60	98	71	71
November	45	35	92	194	74	48	35	101	77	50	33	32	44
December	146	131	128	76	129	149	124	127	128	158	143	132	151

Annual Averages							
Year	1944	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Sheep Districts	57	89	109	141	209	62	112
Wheat "	53	91	108	138	177	65	114
Dairying (Coastal)	79	94	134	122	130	70	104

W O O L (See also graph p. 152)

The Australian Wool Bureau reported good demand for wool from European and Eastern countries at the sales held in Australia during December with practically full clearances of wool offered. However, prices continued to decline, and the December average, on a full-clip basis, of 43½d per lb. greasy was 1½d below November, 19d below last season's average, and the lowest price for ten years.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL - NEW SOUTH WALES - Pence per lb. Greasy

Season ended	d. per lb.	Month (a)	1953-54	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
30th June			Pence per lb.			
1951	145.3	September	83.0	75.0	72.0	47.0
		October	84.0	73.0	66.0	44.5
1954	81.8	November	84.0	77.0	64.0	45.0
1955	70.6	December	81.0	78.0	59.0	43.5
1956	61.6	May	82.0	83.0	52.0	
1957	80.5	June	82.5	79.0	53.0	
1958	62.8					

(a). Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of the month named.

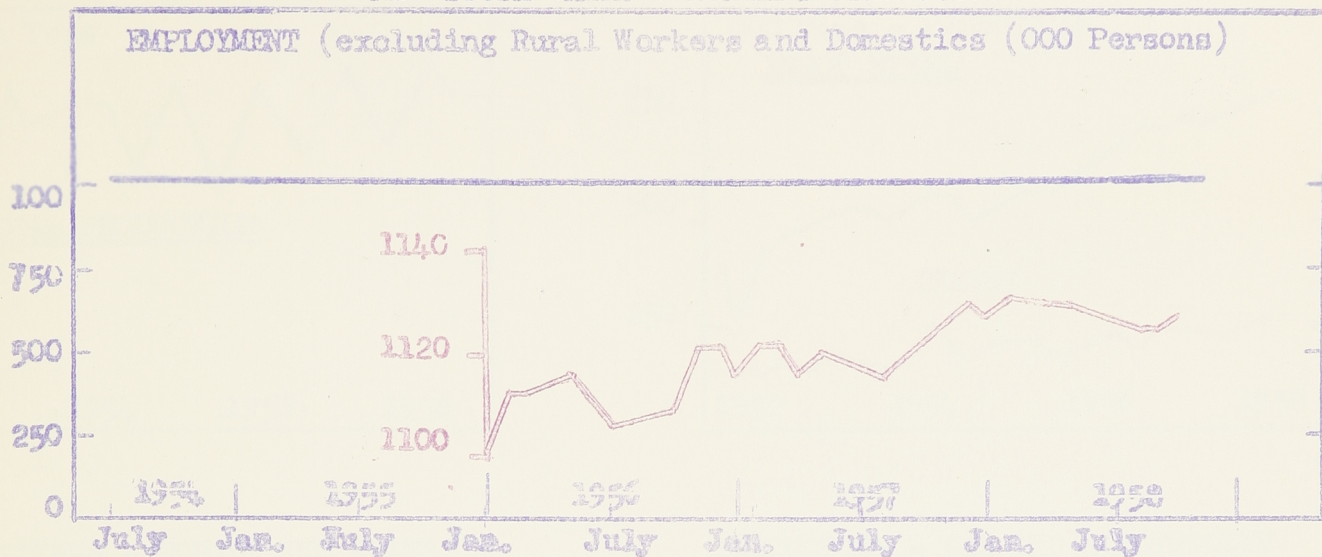
Wool price details shown below are taken from Australian Wool Bureau summaries. They indicate that recent price falls have affected finer quality more than heavier wool. The price difference between 64's and 50's (good quality combing wool) was 33d or 27% in December 1957, 39d. or 34% in June 1958 and 19d. or 21% in December 1958. Carding wools which had a sharp decline in the second half of the 1957-58 season did not fall so much this season.

WOOL PRICE - Clean Basis - At Australian Centres

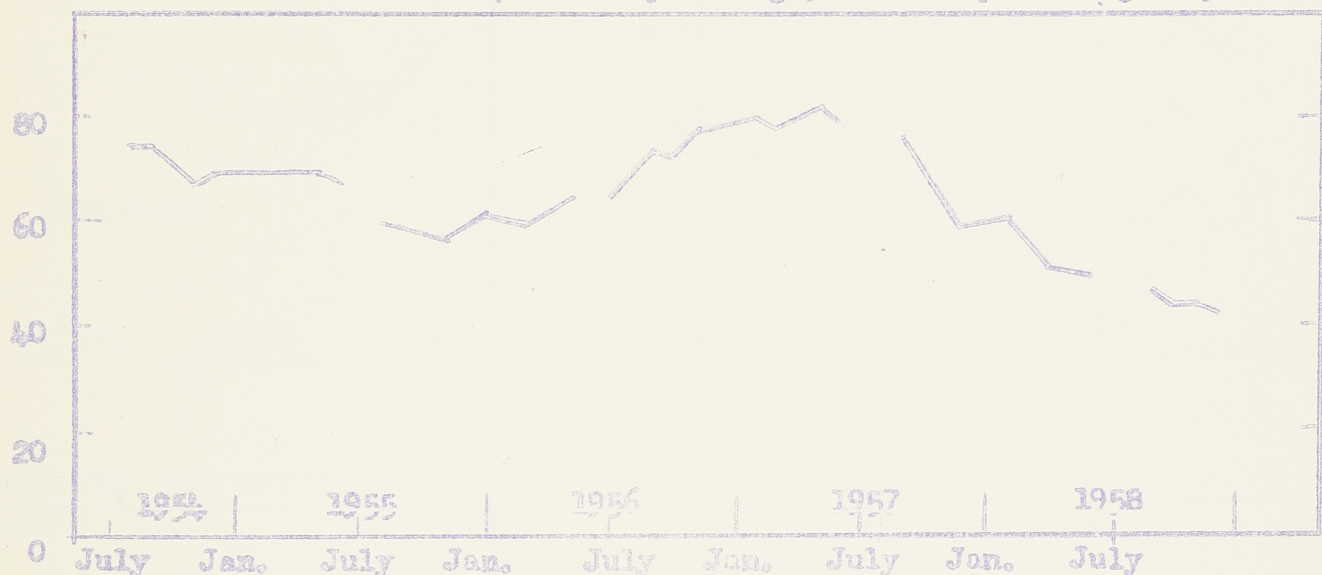
Week ended	Combing Wools				Carding Wools		
	64's	60's	56's	50's	Merino	Come-back	Medium
	Good Quality						Crossbred
	Pence per pound						
20.12.1957	121	113	101	88	66	62	57
27. 6.1958	116	106	89	77	51	47	41
29. 8.1958	106	96	80	69	46	41	38
28.11.1958	94	88	77	71	44	40	37
19.12.1958	90	85	75	71	45	40	36
	Percentage Fall; Week ended 19th Dec.1958 compared with:						
20.12.1957	- 26%	- 25%	- 26%	- 19%	- 32%	- 35%	- 37%
27. 6.1958	- 22%	- 20%	- 16%	- 8%	- 12%	- 15%	- 12%

NEW SOUTH WALES - MONTHLY STATISTICS

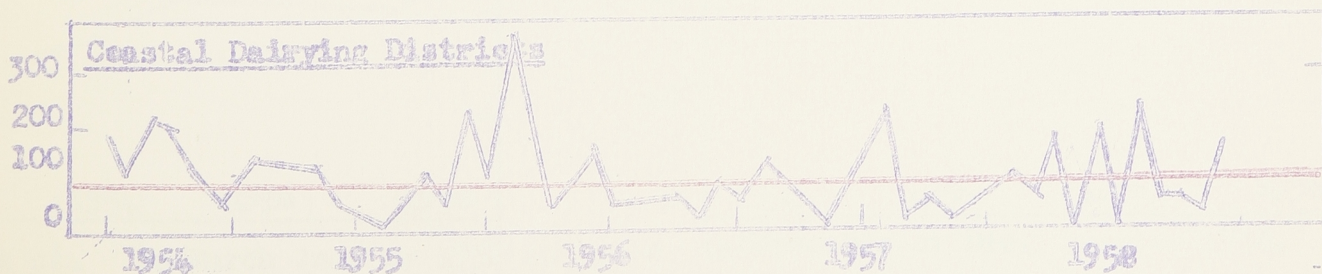
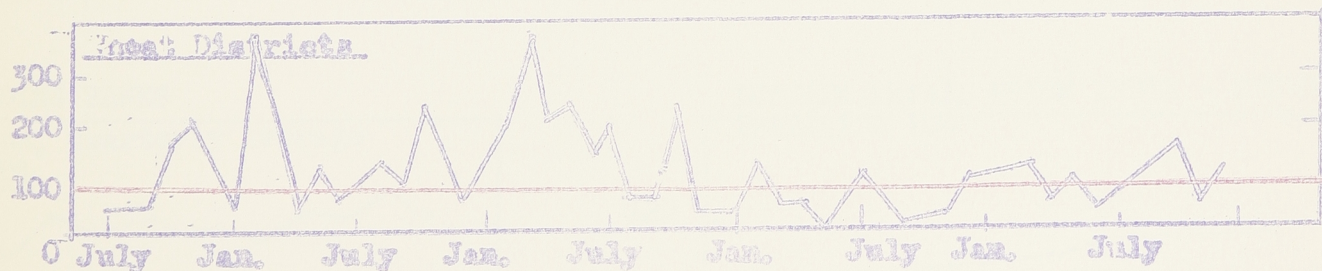
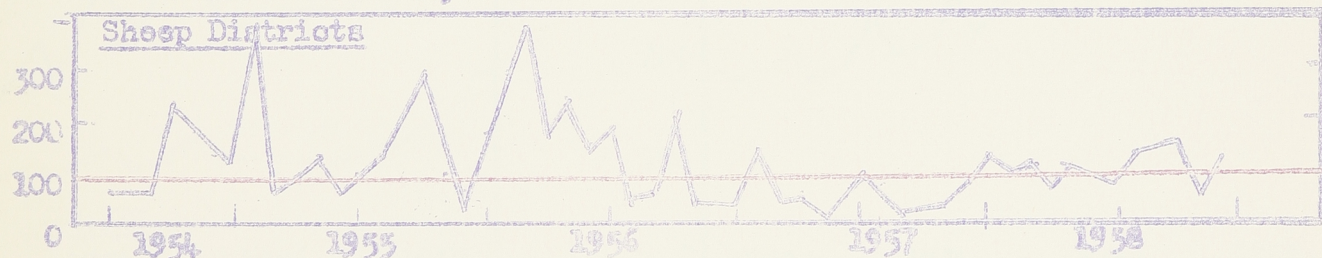
EMPLOYMENT (excluding Rural Workers and Domestics (000 Persons))



WOOL PRICE (Full-Clip Average) - Pence per lb. greasy

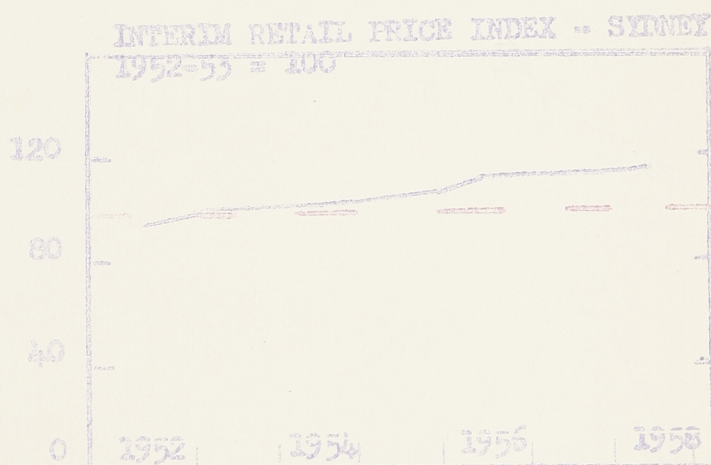
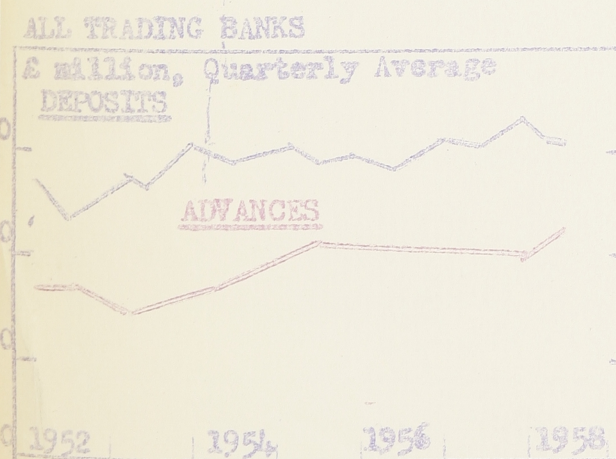
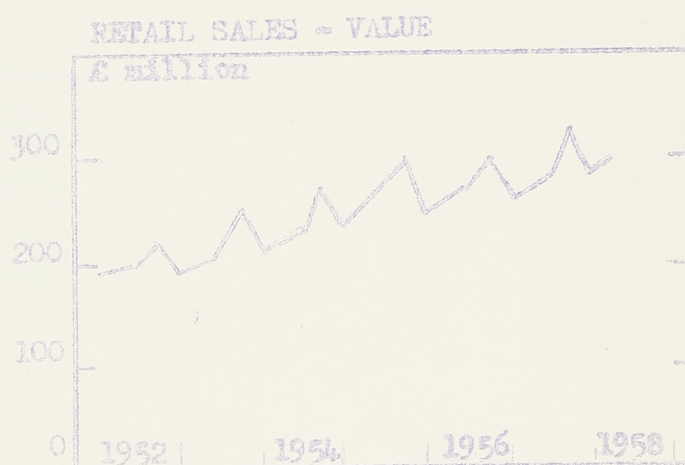
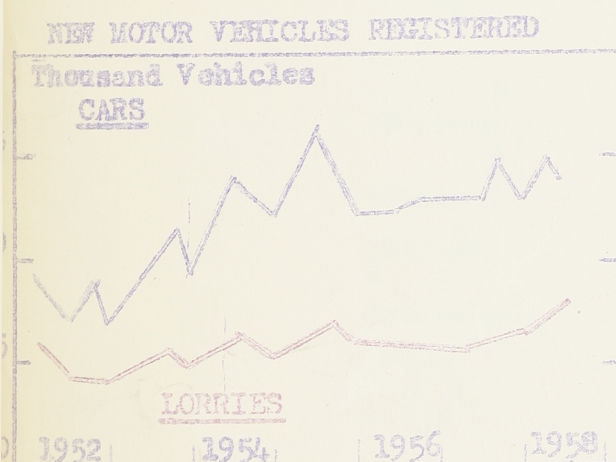
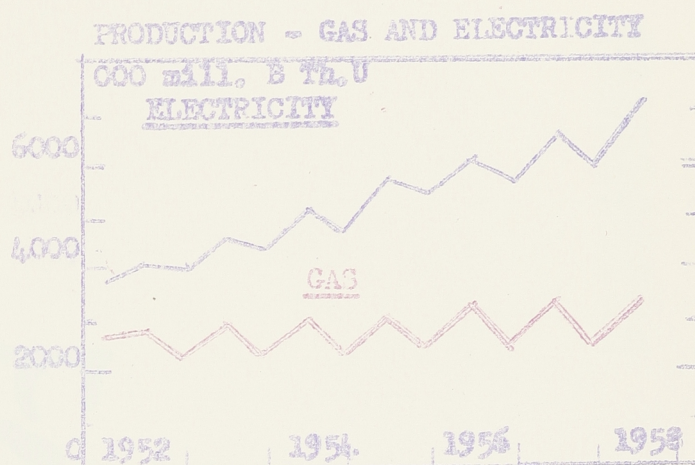
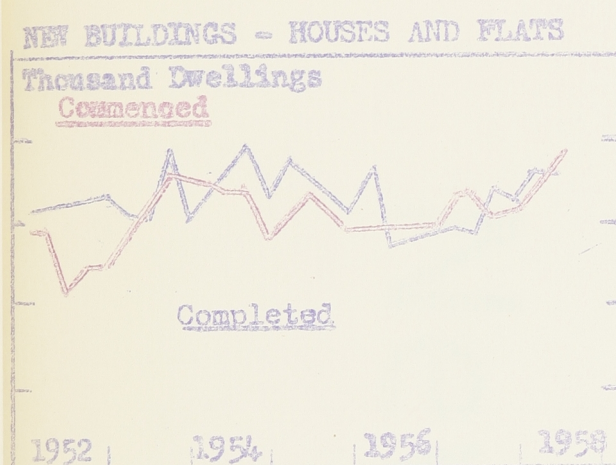
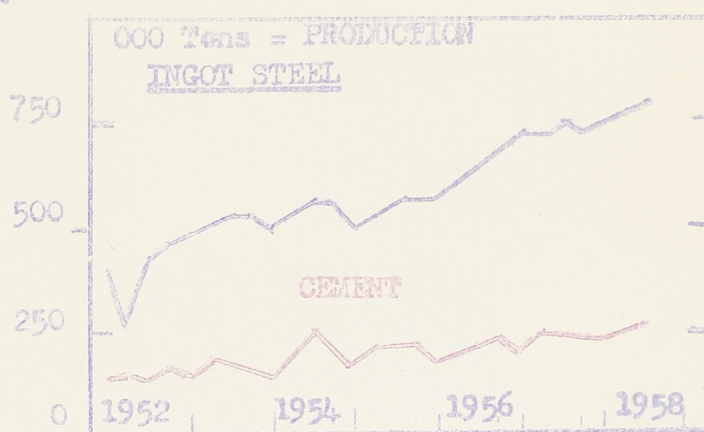
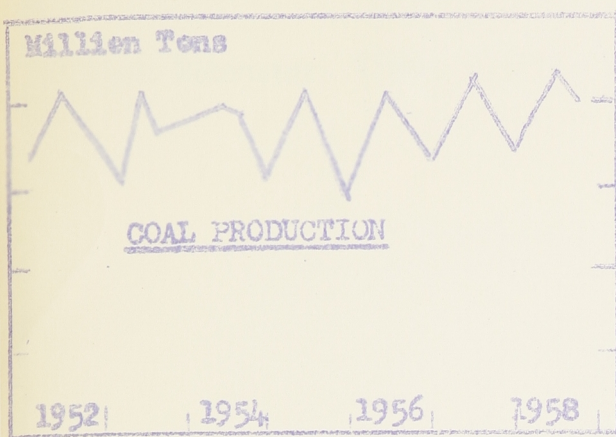


RAINFALL INDEX, Normal Rainfall for each month = 100



Series start in July 1954 and go up to December 1958.

NEW SOUTH WALES - QUARTERLY STATISTICS



Series sta. in March quarter 1952 and go up to September or Dec. quarter 1958.